

Proper Mechanics



A great deal of attention has been given to officials who wear the Precision Timing Device that stops the clock immediately when the whistle is blown. How do we know this, you ask? It is because the majority of officials who do not wear the PTD pack and who do not utilize the whistle fail to stop the clock on violations. It would be excellent if high school basketball used this apparatus, but the cost of the mechanism and constant changing of batteries probably makes it prohibitive. Where does that leave us? Signaling is an essential aspect of officiating and through its use rulings and information are communicated to officials, scorers, timers, players, coaches, spectators, and the media. Poorly executed, unorthodox, and the failure to use required signals tend to confuse. Whenever an official's whistle blows, an accompanying simultaneous stop the clock signal is required. The signals chart specifically illustrates that the clock shall be stopped by raising the arm straight above the head with an open palm which precedes all violations. The chart also illustrates the raising of the arm above the head with a clenched fist which precedes all fouls. Although mirroring the so-called "big boys" may be glamorous, it is a detriment to the high school game. The failure to use required signals as well as the usage of unauthorized signals frequently confuse as either the action cannot be determined and/or the action has no defined meaning. Please use required mechanics and stop **the clock before you point**.